(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Air India has taken following steps to upgade its fleet operations: (i) Air India has dry leased five A310-300 aircrafts; (ii) Structural modification of three B747-400 was carried out. Presently fourth aircraft VT-ESP B747 is undergoing modification; (iii) In the wake of 11 September, 2001 incident, as recommended by Regulatory Authorities, modification of strengthening of the cockpit door security has been completed; (iv) As per DGCA's directive, all the aircrafts in India are equipped with Enhanced Ground Proximity Warning Systems (EGPWS). This system has been mandated in the rest of the world also by FAA with compliance before 29.3.2005; (v) Reduce Vertical Separation Minima (RVSM) Qualification has been accomplished on Air India's A310 fleet and various maintenance checks and calibration at regular intervals were carried out.

Indian Airlines has also inducted five A320 aircrafts on lease. The lease term of two A300 B4 aircrafts taken in May June 1998 was further extended for a period of two years. Indian Airlines is considering lease of six ATR 43-500 aircrafts for its wholly owned subsidiary Alliance Air. The Board of Directors of Indian Airlines has approved a proposal for acquisition of 43 aircrafts and is seeking Government approval.

Renaming of Lucknow Airport

2379. SHRI NARENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to rename Lucknow Airport as Lucknow-Kanpur Airport with a view to give fillip to International tourism as absence of name of 'Kanpur' from international air network all over the globe, often results in prospective tourists from getting/visiting this industrial capital of Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) and (b) The proposal for renaming Lucknow Airport as Lucknow-Kanpur Airport is under consideration.

Expansion of IGIA

†2380. PROF. R.B.S. VARMA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indira Gandhi International Airport is over burdened with passengers and air traffic;

(b) if so, whether Government are formulating any scheme for expansion of the said airport; and

(c) if so, the amount earmarked for implementation of the said scheme and by when the said scheme would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI SYED SHAHNAWAZ HUSSAIN): (a) to (c) Following works have been undertaken to upgrade passenger facilities at IGI Airport, Delhi:—

(i) At the arrival level, the terminal building has been connected to visitors lounge.

(ii) The existing arrival hall has also been modified to provide for increased claim length of the 6 conveyor belts. The locations of the custom counters and other facilities are also being modified, which would increase the arrival handling capacity from 1200 peak hour passengers to 1600 peak hour passengers.

(iii) Congestion in the check-in hall has been overcome by shifting the existing glazing towards the city-side thereby adding an area of approximately 600 sq. mts. into the check-in hall.

(iv) The flooring in the arrival and the departure level has been changed to provide for improved ambience of the terminal. The illumination levels in the extended portions have also been enhanced.

(v) Toilets in both arrival and departure areas have also been renovated with superior finish.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.